



Johnny Astro - Propulsion Unit Handling Notes

The propulsion (fan) unit is fitted onto the toy linkages in a press fit fashion. That is, the propulsion unit simply plops onto the keyed metal linkage assembly that protrudes out from the circular opening at the far end of the toy. The propulsion unit is not anchored onto the linkage assembly of toy, but rather slides on and is held in place by gravity, i.e. the weight of the propulsion unit keeps it attached. This is true for all toys provided by the AEP Workshop, regardless of the composition of original parts and replication parts. If the toy is tipped upside down, the propulsion unit can fall off and become damaged very easily. This can also occur even if the toy is tipped to one side or another when handled, as the propulsion unit will naturally tilt toward one side when the autopilot bar is not put into the “takeoff” position. So be careful.

I have often been asked what the best way to put the propulsion unit on when assembling the toy and I’m not sure what the best answer is. I usually do this on a soft surface like a couch, or put out a few pillows on the floor and turn the toy upside down, slide the propulsion unit onto the linkage assembly – attach the wires – hold both the propulsion unit and the rest of the toy at the same time and flip it over. When we made the replications for the boy scout project, one of the other parents in the boy scout troop said that he and his son did the operation together with one person holding the toy and the propulsion unit on a table right side up and positioning the end so it is off the table; the other person goes underneath the toy and clips the wires on while it is being held. Find what works best for you and remember to work on a soft cushioned surface to minimize the chance for damage. And remember to be careful when attaching the propulsion unit to make sure that the throttle is not engaged. If the throttle is engaged, then the propeller will spin when the wires are attached – so make sure that the throttle is in the “off” position when handling the propulsion unit.